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The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine

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Seventy-third year

Letter dated 10 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith an address by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine to the United Nations and other international and regional organizations with regard to another act of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine (see annex).*

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 67, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

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Annex to the letter dated 10 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Address by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine to the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the GUAM Parliamentary Assembly and national parliaments with regard to another act of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine

On 25 November 2018, the armed forces of the Russian Federation committed an armed attack against the military cutters of the Naval Forces of Ukraine, which made a planned sea transfer from the port of Odesa to the port of Mariupol in full compliance with the provisions of the existing multilateral and bilateral international treaties and rules of navigation.

Such actions of the Russian Federation constitute an act of armed aggression against Ukraine, as defined by Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX) "Definition of aggression" of 14 December 1974. They also violated Articles 2 and 21 of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

By committing these actions the Russian Federation has furthered its armed aggression against Ukraine, started on 20 February 2014 and resulted in the illegal occupation of the part of the territory of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine:

expresses its resolute protest over the aggressive actions of the Russian Federation with regard to the armed attack and seizure of the Ukrainian military cutters "Berdyansk", "Nikopol" and tugboat "Yany Kapu", wounding their *crew members and taking them as prisoners of war*;

demands from the Russian Federation to provide urgent medical assistance to the wounded Ukrainian sailors, to ensure their immediate and safe return to Ukraine, as well as to ensure return of illegally seized military assets and compensation for losses;

rest full responsibility upon the Kremlin's regime for escalating tensions in the Azov Sea, the Black Sea and the Kerch Strait, which marks a continuation of the armed occupation of Crimea and certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as for undermining the peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian-Russian armed conflict;

calls upon the international community to take efficient measures to halting Russian aggression on sea and on land, including by introducing new sanctions and strengthening existing ones until Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is fully restored within internationally recognized borders;

invites international organizations to send observers to the Black Sea, the Azov Sea and the Kerch Strait, and also invites maritime states to send military vessels to these waters to prevent further escalation of tensions by the Russian Federation;

calls upon international partners to strengthen military and other assistance to Ukraine in order to protect its territorial integrity and sovereignty;

calls upon the international community to respond adequately to the challenges and threats posed by the Russian Federation, given the fact that the policy of appeasement has already led to the occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine, notably the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions;

deems it outrageous, that the Russian Federation ignored the firm stance of the international community in condemning the fake "elections" organized by this country in the temporarily occupied territories in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions of Ukraine, and calls for the annulment of their "results". The Russian Federation is fully responsible for these illegal actions and their devastating effect for the peace process;

emphasizes that the construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline is not in the interest of Europe, but in the interest of the Russian Federation; and poses a threat, inter alia in the security domain, for the entire region of the Baltic and Northern Europe;

stresses that the impunity for aggressive policy and actions of the Russian Federation can lead to global consequences.